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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Noriyuki MATSUMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2623

Application No.: 09/937,623

Examiner: A. Bhatnagar

Filed: December 28, 2001

Docket No.: 109667

For: FINGERPRINT IMAGE EVALUATION METHOD AND FINGERPRINT  
VERIFICATION DEVICE

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

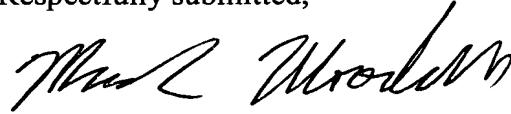
Sir:

In reply to the April 12, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants  
provisionally elect Species 3, claims 10-13 and 16, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-16, species 1-3, is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MRW/tls

Date: May 12, 2005

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